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Mississippi Correspondence (3)

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Memphis Bulletin

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Mississippi Correspondence.

The Weather—Gen. Green—Fatal Result to Cotton Crops—Effect on Freedmen—Their Mottoes—Consequences of Failure—Citizens Returned from Mexico—Influence of Their Opinions—A Negro Sabbath School—Its Object. 1866

Special Correspondence Memphis Bulletin.]

CRAWFORDSVILLE, MISS., }
May 14th, 1866. }

The past two weeks have been wholly lost to planters in this section of the State. Incessant and excessive rains have kept the soil so wet, that to work it would have been injurious, if not impossible. Grass has consequently taken so strong a hold in many farms, that there is but little probability of its being eradicated, and at the same time a stand of cotton preserved. Cotton, from old seed, has died out amazingly, while that from new, seems to have endured the long spell of unfavorable weather remarkably well. All bottom lands have been deluged and the crops almost entirely destroyed. The Bigbee and Noxubee have been higher than ever known before.

Freedmen having been idle for fourteen days, have lost the little inclination they previously had for labor. Two weeks of favorable sunshine will be lost, ere they can regain sufficient energy to attack the grass. These causes all conspire to render a failure of the cotton crop imminent. Negroes on many places cannot be induced to work a single Saturday afternoon, though they are themselves interested in the crop, and know full well that every exertion would be required to rescue it from grass and weeds. Their mottoes are: "The Lord will provide for us a way of escape," "Time was made when the world was made," "We can do the rest next week," etc., etc.

Our planters have generally gone to great expense in repairing and replenishing their stock of plantation implements, and augmenting their supply of mules, and hence a failure of crops is inevitable bankruptcy. Comparatively few could ever make another effort.

Our fellow-citizens who have lately returned from Mexico, state that the country is all that it has been represented, yet the instability of Government, and the untold obstacles in the way of immigrants, induce them not to purchase land. Their opinions and action will govern those of the whole country. But few, if any, will emigrate.

A negro Sabbath school is about to be inaugurated at Sharon Baptist Church, to teach the ignorant sons of Ham to read the bible and learn therefrom their duties as freedmen. Ex-masters are taking the lead in this matter, while many, who never owned a negro, condemn it. The ignorance of the negro is deemed the source of the greater portion of his misconduct. Hence, to instruct him and elevate him as an intelligent, moral being, is a duty to society, as much as to the negro himself. Thus, the good people of Noxubee view the matter.

On Friday, the 18th of May, the ladies of Crawfordsville and vicinity will give an entertainment for the benefit of the New Institute to be built in the village. The entertainment of the evening will be preceded by a tournament. All gentlemen wishing to celebrate the festivities of the days of Richard Coeur de Lion are invited to enter as contestants for the palm. The hospitality of the village is cheerfully tendered to all.

"All quiet along" Horse-hunter.

NOXUBEE.